



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 6498
Naoaki KATAOKA et al. : Docket No. 2001-0978
Serial No. 09/900,141 : Group Art Unit 1744
Filed July 9, 2001 : Examiner W. Beisner

METHOD FOR PURIFYING MATTER :
CONTAMINATED WITH HALOGENATED :
ORGANIC COMPOUNDS :

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated November 30, 2001, the period for response having been extended by the attached petition, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 to 3 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for purifying soil, sediment or sludge contaminated with a halogenated organic compound, which method comprises the step of:

adding a reducing agent and a water-soluble organic nutritional source for a heterotrophic anaerobic microorganism to the contaminated matter, the reducing agent having a standard electrode potential ranging from 130 mV to -2400 mV at 25°C with respect to the standard hydrogen electrode, the reducing agent being at least one species selected from the group consisting of reduced iron, an iron-silicon alloy, a titanium alloy, a zinc alloy, a manganese alloy, an aluminum alloy, a magnesium alloy and a calcium alloy, whereby an oxidation reduction potential of the contaminated matter reduced is maintained at not more than -350 mV for at least 5 days by adding the reducing agent.

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